

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) In a mobile communications system comprising a network and at least one mobile station, a method for selecting a transport format combination TFC to be used for communication from the mobile station to the network, over a channel of variable quality, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) defining a set of possible transport format combinations;
- b) calculating a channel quality requirement for the effective use of each transport format combination;
- c) indicating the transport format combinations and the channel quality requirements to the mobile station;
- d) calculating an existing quality of the channel of variable quality; and
- e) indicating the existing quality of the channel of variable quality to the mobile station; and, in the mobile station;
- f) storing the transport format combinations and relative channel quality requirements;
- g) receiving the indication of existing channel quality;

h) selecting one of the transport format combinations having a channel quality requirement no greater [[that]] than the existing channel quality, and

i) informing the network of the selected transport combination, characterized in that the indication of the existing quality of the channel of variable quality is communicated to the mobile station by inband signalling signaling, whereby the indication of the existing quality of the channel of variable quality is included in every downlink radio packet, in data locations normally assigned for carrying user information.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step h of selecting one of the transport format combinations is performed with regard to the type of data to be transmitted by the mobile station.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the transport format combinations enable transmission of data blocks containing data from different Temporary Block Flows in each block.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein calculation of the existing quality of the channel of variable quality is performed periodically during communication.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the relative channel quality is calculated as the minimum channel quality required such that data sent on the channel is received with an error ratio below a defined threshold.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the step c of indicating transport format combinations and channel quality requirements to the mobile station includes the steps of:

- (c1) ranking the transport format combinations according to the associated channel quality requirement; and
- (c2) indicating the rank of each transport format combination to the mobile station, along with the transport format combinations themselves, to the mobile station.

Claim 7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the step c2 of indicating the rank of each transport format combination comprises indicating the transport format combinations themselves in order of increasing, or decreasing, rank.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~ wherein the step of indicating the existing quality of the channel of variable quality comprises indicating the rank of the transport format combination

having the highest channel quality requirement, which could effectively be employed on the channel in its existing quality.

Claim 9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the rank is indicated as an absolute value.

Claim 10. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the rank is indicated as a relative value, being an offset relative to a previous value of the rank.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a network and a mobile station, respectively comprising means for carrying out the steps of, and arranged to perform, the method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A network comprising means for carrying out the respective steps of the method of ~~any of claims 1 – 11~~ claim 1 and arranged within a communications system according to claim 12.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A mobile station comprising means for carrying out the respective steps of the method of ~~any of claims 1 – 11~~ claim 1 and arranged within the communications system according to claim 12.